

Section 1

#1: Opening paragraph (first two sentences)

Strengths:

- Your opening statistic about 1.7 billion people drinking contaminated water immediately grabs attention and shows the global importance of water pollution
- The vivid description of Shelly Beach creates a strong contrast between its natural beauty and current polluted state

Lack of clear connection

→ Whilst the global statistic is powerful, you haven't explained how it relates specifically to Shelly Beach or Sydney. The jump from a worldwide problem to your local beach feels sudden. You could strengthen this by adding a sentence that bridges these ideas, showing why this global issue matters for your community. For example, after mentioning the 1.7 billion people, you might write: *"Sydney is not immune to this crisis, and Shelly Beach stands as a clear example of how water contamination affects Australian communities."*

#2: Body paragraphs (paragraphs 3-4)

Strengths:

- You've included specific evidence about the microplastics (over 4,000 bits per square metre) and mentioned the Australian Microplastic Assessment Project, which adds authority to your arguments
- Your explanation of how storms wash pollutants into the beach helps readers understand the ongoing nature of the problem

Vague consequences

→ Whilst you mention "unsafe levels of bacteria" and diseases like "respiratory infections and skin rashes," you haven't explained what these health impacts actually mean for real people using the beach. Who specifically is affected? How many people get sick? What happens when someone develops these infections? Without these details, your argument feels incomplete. Consider adding: *"Swimmers,*

especially children with developing immune systems, face serious health risks when exposed to this contaminated water. Even brief contact can lead to painful skin rashes that last for days, whilst accidental swallowing of the water can cause severe stomach illnesses requiring medical treatment."

#3: Closing paragraph

Strengths:

- Your call to action directly addresses Mayor Moore and makes it clear you're waiting for approval to take concrete steps
- The rhetorical question engages the reader emotionally and emphasises the urgency

Unclear proposed solution

→ You mention organising a beach cleanup event and gathering data on microplastics, but you haven't explained what you actually want the Mayor to *do*. Approval for what exactly? Beach cleanups are helpful, but they won't fix sewage overflows or stormwater runoff problems that you mentioned earlier. Your letter needs to clearly state what specific actions or resources you're requesting from the Mayor. Try: *"We respectfully request your support in three key areas: permission to organise monthly community cleanup events, funding for additional stormwater filtration systems near Shelly Beach, and commitment from Sydney Water to investigate and repair the sewage overflow issues contributing to contamination."*

■ Your letter effectively uses emotional appeal and evidence to highlight the serious pollution at Shelly Beach. The vivid descriptions and specific data about microplastics create a compelling picture of the problem. However, your argument would be much stronger if you focused more on developing the substance of your ideas rather than just stating facts.

Your second paragraph mentions faecal pollution and thousands of microplastics, but you need to explain *why* these specific pollutants are dangerous and *how* they affect people's daily lives. Additionally, your fourth paragraph identifies problems like stormwater runoff and sewage overflows, yet you don't propose any specific solutions for these root causes. Beach cleanups remove surface litter but won't stop sewage from flowing into the water.

Also, your letter would benefit from a clearer structure. Consider organising your middle paragraphs by first explaining the pollution sources, then detailing the health and environmental impacts, and finally presenting your proposed solutions with specific requests. Currently, information about the

problem and potential actions is scattered throughout, making it harder for Mayor Moore to understand exactly what you need from her. Your closing asks for "approval" but never specified earlier in the letter what actions require approval, leaving the reader confused about your concrete expectations.

Overall Score: 42/50

Section 2

Dear Mayor Clover Moore,

#1 Did you know that one point seven billion people globally are drinking water that is contaminated, posing a significant risk to public health? Shelly Beach—a beach once thriving with nature and beauty from its soft, sparkling sand, to the rhythmic sounds of waves lapping and crashing ~~to finally~~ [; and finally to] its vast expanse of the blue sea underneath the glowing sky—has turned into a disaster. This beach is contaminated with sewage overflows.

#2 Shelly Beach is susceptible to faecal pollution and is not always safe for swimming. Scientists have made shocking discoveries of high levels of microplastics in the sand, some samples recording over four thousand bits of microplastics in just one square metre! The state of Shelly Beach requires urgent and immediate action.

With poor water quality, there are unsafe levels of bacteria ~~and are~~ [, and swimmers are] at the cusp of getting diseases such as respiratory infections and skin rashes. According to the Australian Microplastic Assessment Project ~~has been~~ [, Shelly Beach has been] consistently ~~ranking it~~ [ranked] as Australia's worst hotspot.

Every storm washes new pollutants, including high concentrations of faecal bacteria, into Shelly Beach. If the source issues like stormwater runoff releasing waste from sewages are not ~~thought about~~ [addressed], the poor water quality days will increase, forcing more frequent public closures of a popular swim spot in Sydney that attracts many tourists.

Our local community is highly engaged and enthusiastic about proposing a beach ~~cleanup~~ [clean-up] event to protect our marine environment. We are committed to cleaning up not merely visible litter

such as bottle caps and single~~use~~ [-use] plastics but also ~~finding~~ [gathering] more data on microplastics found to help reduce waterway pollution.

#3 The severity of this problem is unimaginable. From the thousands of microplastics dumped on our beaches in a square metre, poisoning marine life and threatening swimmers, kids and adults demand immediate community action. Will we sit calmly and watch as the ~~centerpiece~~ [centrepiece] of our ecosystem is being damaged? We wait for your approval, respected Mayor Clover More—to stop the contamination from becoming worse than it already is.

Yours ~~Sincerely~~ [sincerely],

Chloe